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Poland

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Russian Ban on Plant Products Re-export from Poland

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Monitoring

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On October 6th, 2014 Russia imposed a ban on re-export of plant products from Poland to Russia. Polish phytosanitary certificates for re-export are no longer recognized by the Russian phytosanitary authorities.

General Information:

Poland's Main Inspectorate of Plant Health and Seed Inspection announced that the Russian Federation Phytosanitary Service, Rosselchoznadzor, imposed a ban on re-export of plant products from Poland to Russia. The Polish Phytosanitary Inspection certificates for re-export of plant products will be no longer recognized by Russian authorities. The ban came into force October 6th, 2014.

Chief of the Polish Phytosanitary Inspection, Mr. Tadeusz Klos, informed the Polish press that the Russian authorities' justification for this decision was a high increase of re-exported items from Poland to Russia in the last few years. According to the Polish Press Agency report the Chief Inspector does not agree with this statement, explaining that in the year 2013 only 8,000 MT of plant products were re-exported to Russia from Poland in 2013, based on 207 re-export certificates issued in Poland. There is no growth in these numbers during past few years. For years the main products re-exported to Russia were barley and wheat malt. In some years very small shipments of tea, cocoa, and fresh fruits were re-exported as well. In 2014 it was almost only malt shipped to Russia. Chief Klos said that the statistics show only shipments originating from third countries as shipments among EU member states are not tracked.

Certificates for re-export have been issued for these transshipments with out of the EU origin coming directly from third countries or other EU member states, with the means of transportation undergoing switch on Polish territory.

According to the opinion of Polish experts, the ban is mostly political symbolism aspect, as it is not expected that it would affect Polish agri-food trade or the larger economy at all.